

17 July 1964

MEMO FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Requested External Use of IBM cards for NIS Gazetteers

1. Today I discussed with AD/CR two recent developments in subject. 25X1A9a

2. Some time ago [redacted] at BGN referred to Chief D/P a request by Mormon Church people to borrow and electronically manipulate, for limited specified foreign areas, the IBM cards held by [redacted] in Machine Division OCR which are used to transfer BGN name research into the published Gazetteers. At some point something was said about the church having one of the best name-check files in existence. At some point [redacted] people also got involved, indicating that they had an interest in the technicalities of the proposed card utilization; RJM phoned one Koontz as to OBI's position. The position taken by OBI was that, inasmuch as the name research already had been done, there would be no direct reason for OBI objection to loan of the wanted cards, but that (1) [redacted] would have to determine whether it would be feasible/acceptable to let the IBM cards be removed and re-arranged, (2) CIA via OBI had paid for the name research and staff and heretofore non-Government requests (even via Congress member inquiries) had been told to buy Gazetteers through the GPO, and (3) OBI would not have adequate basis for judging the extent to which other net-intelligence-gain considerations might bear on such a request as the Mormons'. 25X1A9a

3. Approximately two weeks ago [redacted] referred to Chief D/P an inquiry from one [redacted] (formerly with ORR) as to possible Rand McNally borrowing of these same IBM cards, apparently on almost a world-wide basis. Something vague was said about potential reciprocal Rand McNally value to the business. Chief D/P in general repeated the OBI position taken as to the Mormons, although upon check Atkins indicated that prospect of almost wholesale lending of the cards seemed dubious. 25X1A9a

4. RJM had been unable to discuss this subject with [redacted] in OCR, away. Inasmuch as the Mormons had not been answered and [redacted] was awaiting early word from Chief D/P, I arranged to discuss this with AD/CR this day. He was fully familiar with the Mormon deal, and logically but incorrectly assumed OBI had seen various AD/CS and other memos, but did not know about Rand McNally. He said there was no intelligence interest in the Mormon compilation of millions of personal names for genealogical purposes, but rather in their machine

methods which allegedly were well ahead of the Agency. This was felt to warrant giving the Mormons the requested loan of the IBM cards, and AD/CR said he would check with [REDACTED], the AD/CS people, 25X1A9a and others and arrive at an expedited position, with OBI to be consulted. He understood the AD/BI position, including the desirability of keeping Chief D/P involved as appropriate, and potential need for OBI to be able to demonstrate quid pro quo vis-a-vis its sizable expenditure of public funds for the BGN research, including the potential aspect of breaking down the established policy of requiring schools and others to buy Gazetteers through GPO in contrast with free use of the same material in card form, particularly by a commercial enterprise like Rand McNally. The point was made that OBI does not merely "buy" the card or other end-product of EGN but provides full-time support for the research staff and its continuing place-names work. AD/CR was told that for Budget purposes OBI would be well advised to get something in writing if decision was reached to release these items. AD/CR said one angle was the fact that "some one-third" of cards had been transferred to magnetic tape, reducing [REDACTED] concern over loss and a technique which could be extended to all of the IBM cards at the expense of the Mormons, etc. NSA at times had used the cards, and some indirect Navy activity at Annapolis had done some taping.

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AD/CR phoned today to say he would forthwith set up an ad hoc group of one each from OCR, AD/CS, and OBI to examine in detail these two requests and the basic problem. It was suggested that, rather than the Chief D/P chairing as AD/CR proposed, [REDACTED] was able to or could much more readily determine the factors affecting release of the cards/tape which were likely to lie outside Chief D/P's more direct experience with the Gazetteer as such. Parenthetical observation: 25X1A9a These requests possibly might reflect indirect [REDACTED] effort to drum up support for the BGN operation, following OBI frankness at the early 1964 budget discussion with him.

PGB

cc: Chief D/P

CIV WJEP